

UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Volume 6 • Number 5

September/October 2000



Captured at the historic signing of the new Title 33 Legislation.

Major Changes brought about by Passage of New Title 33 Legislation

On June 23, Governor Don Sundquist signed into law a total revision of Title 33 of the *Tennessee Code Annotated*—the area that governs the delivery of services to Tennesseans with mental illness, severe emotional disturbance, developmental disabilities, and persons who need inpatient

alcohol and/or drug services.

The name of the department changed to the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities on the date the governor signed Public Chapter 947. Other Title 33 revisions are effective March 1, 2001, except for eligibility for developmental

disabilities which is effective March 1, 2002.

This legislation, which unanimously passed both houses of the legislature, sets the tone of practice for service delivery for the future. Under its provisions, the department must plan for and promote the availability of a comprehensive array of high quality prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation services and supports based on the needs and choices of service recipients and families served.

The new law significantly expands the department's regulatory authority and the disabilities eligible for services; requires providers to meet basic quality standards and

Housing Options Planned for Persons with MI

In August, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (DMHDD) Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser announced the Creating Homes Initiative (CHI), a plan to expand affordable housing options in local communities for Tennesseans with mental illness.

Speaking at the welcoming session of the Community Development 2000 housing conference in Knoxville, the commissioner said more than \$3 million included in the 2001 state budget and tied to the Creating Homes Initiatives (CHI), will be used to provide housing for an estimated 500 individuals with serious mental illness.

"Many people with mental illness who could live in the community can't leave our mental health institutes or other inpatient settings because they have no place to go," she said.

The commissioner said the plan, developed by the department's Office of Housing Planning and Development, calls for task forces to be created in local communities. Each is to include representatives from key

community agencies — funding sources, foundations, architects and homebuilders, advocacy groups, service providers, realtors, and federal, state and local agencies concerned with housing and community development.

"Our mission is to successfully partner with local communities to educate, inform and expand quality, safe, affordable and permanent housing. We believe that by working through these groups, we can combine our allocated funds with other resources and serve an increased number of people," she said.

The plan is to be implemented in two phases. Phase one begins in September with task forces being organized in Chattanooga, Memphis, Jackson and Nashville. Phase two, scheduled to begin in July 2001, includes Knoxville, Clarksville and Johnson City.

"Our real goal is to change the current housing situation for people with mental illness in Tennessee. Through intention, strategy and collaboration with the community, we can create 2005 housing options by the year, 2005," she concluded.

To review the new legislation, log on the DMHDD's website at www.state.tn.us/mental and click on the Title 33 button.

to have conflict resolution procedures; makes the department more accountable; includes families and consumers in all aspects of the planning, developing and monitoring of service systems; and extends the rights of service recipients to the total service system.

It also extends criminal background checks to mental health provider employees who have direct contact with or direct responsibility for service recipients; requires all mental health providers, that serve people involuntarily committed to services (including services for children), to have

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Update

of the Tennessee Department of Mental
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State of Tennessee
Don Sundquist, Governor



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Around the State

Youth Villages Earns National Acclaim, Expands to East Tennessee

From *The Jackson Sun*

Youth Villages, a west Tennessee program
offering mental health services to children in
Jackson, Dyersburg and Paris, recently received
national recognition for its effectiveness in
providing a multisystemic form of therapy.

The therapy treats the behavioral or
emotional issues of children in their homes.

A report - *Less Hype, More Help: Reducing
Juvenile Crime - What Works and What Doesn't* -
documents innovative approaches found to
prevent youth from committing crimes. It says
the Youth Village concept "is a more effective,
low cost answer to critical national issues on
how to treat troubled children and youth."

Authored by Dr. Richard Mendel of
Baltimore, Maryland, the report was recently
released in Washington, D.C.

The Youth Villages program was modeled
from a program at the Medical University of
South Carolina.

In July, Youth Villages announced plans to
expand its home-based counseling services to
the East Tennessee area.

The Knoxville office now serves residents of
Scott, Knox, Anderson, Union, Jefferson,
Sevier, Blount, Loudon, Roane, Morgan,
Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamblen,
Cocke and Monroe counties.

Turning Promise into Practice, Topic of October MIAW

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
used MIAW, Mental Illness Awareness Week,
October 1-7 to focus on several key messages
made during MIAW in years past.

Citing the *good news about mental illness*, the
organization stressed science as the strongest
weapon in the fight against it.

Emphasis was also placed on the importance
of early intervention, effective treatment,
rehabilitation and recovery.

Other key points included eliminating
barriers to mental illness recovery and
promoting the theme - *Treatment works, if a
person with mental illness can get it.*

In highlighting the *bad news about mental
illness*, NAMI reported that the nation's mental
healthcare system is in crisis because far too
many consumers still struggle to get the
treatment and services that are critical to
recovery.

Research on mental illness is significantly
underfunded in relation to its economic and
public impact. And stigma continues to be the
most significant barrier to people getting the
help they need.

Lewis Wins NAMI- Tennessee Award

The Nashville Chapter of the National
Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Tennessee
recently awarded *The Tennessean's* Dwight
Lewis with its Print Media Journalist of the
Year Award for promoting mental health issues
as part of his column.

The presentation was made at the
organization's annual banquet scheduled at the
Vanderbilt University Stadium Club.

Nashville Drug Court Dedicated

In July, a \$3 million complex which provides
non-violent offenders a second chance opened
adjacent to Nashville's Bordeaux Hospital.

Originally located on the campus of Middle
Tennessee Mental Health Institute, the Drug
Court provides offenders with intensive
counseling, constant drug screening, hard work
and strict supervision in lieu of serving the
traditional jail term.

Criminal Court Judge Seth Norman founded
the Drug Court three years ago and at the time,
it served only males. Women have since been
admitted, and today, the new facility can house
60 men and 40 women.

During the dedication ceremonies, Judge Jeff
Tauber of Oakland, California, president of the
National Association of Drug Court
Professionals, said the Nashville facility is the
first in the nation to be built exclusively as a
drug court.

Sotany Hall, the women's residential facility,
was named for Metro Councilwoman, Janis
Sotany. The men's residential facility is Waters
Hall, named in honor of Metro Councilman
Leo Waters.

Also part of the dedication was the
graduation of 10 former offenders. Each
expressed appreciation for the program and to
Judge Norman and the Drug Court staff.

The facility was constructed with federal
funds.

TAMHO Plans The Balancing Act

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health
Organizations (TAMHO) presents *The
Balancing Act - Staying Consumer Focused in A
World of Limited Resources.*

The TAMHO Annual Meeting & Trade
Show is scheduled November 5-7 at the
Franklin Cool Spring Marriott Hotel in
Franklin.

Visit www.tamho.org for conference
information or contact TAMHO directly at
(615) 244-2220 or toll free (800) 568-2642 for
a copy of the conference program.

Around the State

Frontier Begins Families 4-Ever; Opens Oasis Center

Frontier Health in Johnson City recently began Families 4-Ever, a program targeted to finding parents who are willing to adopt children with special needs.

Funded through contract with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS), the program works closely with TRACES, Frontier's therapeutic foster care program to find adoptive families.

Adoption Coordinator Kim Trantham says adoption opportunities are sought for children in TRACES and outside referrals.

Foster families in TRACES who wanted to adopt found the process slow and tedious. According to Trantham, children who wanted to be adopted had to be referred back to DCS to complete the process.

Families 4-Ever expects to handle more than 20 adoptions this year. For a child to be adopted, the court must have terminated the parent's rights.

Of the 13,000 potential adoptive children in Tennessee, 1,100 are considered special needs. Trantham says that it is these children that Families 4-Ever is designed to help.

Special needs child is defined as Caucasian and over the age of 9; a minority and over the age of 5; has any type of physical or mental handicap; has been physically or sexually abused; or part of a sibling group of three or more.

For additional information, contact Trantham at (423) 224-1063.

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In June, the Oasis Center, an assessment center for girls, opened in Sullivan County.

The center, a partnership between Frontier Health, DCS and the juvenile courts in the eight-county Northeast Tennessee region, assists the courts by determining the needs of at-risk youth.

"We are an observation and assessment center," said Oasis Manager Christy Mullins. "We provide the courts with a complete report which includes a psychological assessment of each girl — IQ testing, achievement testing, personality testing, substance abuse assessment and observation of the girls' behavior."

Recommendations on the treatment needs of the child and the family are also part of the report.

Oasis provides education for the girls during their stay of 30 to 45 days through the Sullivan County school systems.

According to Mullins, the goal of the Oasis Center is to intervene early with at-risk youth to prevent further delinquency and keep them out of state custody.



Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser (right) presents Carolyn Adams, a Memphis Mental Health Institute nurse, with a plaque naming her as the DMHDD employee of the Year for 1999. The presentation was part of recent ceremonies at the Memphis facility.



DMHDD staff recently participated in **Marketplace of Opportunities**, the 20th Anniversary Minority Business Opportunity Fair, at the Nashville Convention Center. The annual event provides opportunities to expand utilization of minority-owned businesses and outreach network in the minority community. Staffing the exhibit were (from left) Bob VanderSpek, Title VI coordinator; Terry McGovern, director of General Services; and Pat Fortner, mental health educator. Not pictured were Leigh Gilliam, Office of Consumer Affairs, and Gwen Hamer, Office of the Medical Director.



The 3rd Annual National Respite and Crisis Care Networking Institute was held in Nashville in August. Linda Baker, director of ARCH—Access to Respite Care and Help (left)—is pictured with DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser and Louise Barnes, Ph.D., who served as DMHDD Conference Coordinator. The institute attracted families, providers, state coalitions, program staff, advocates, administrators, board members of respite and crisis care programs and others with a stake in respite and crisis care.

DMHDD a Part of *Smart from the Start*

The Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is one of several agencies participating in the state's *Smart from the Start* initiative.

The initiative, which helps parents with their children's school success, was announced in August by Education Commissioner Vernon Coffey who unveiled a *Smart from the Start* chart.

The chart guides parents through the child's development for each three months of life to age 5. Parents are provided information on a path of good health, happiness and success in school, Commissioner Coffey said.

For education to succeed it is important for it to partner with education. According to Coffey, this partnership involves three steps — access to quality information about brain growth and skill development, frequent use of the information and celebration of school success.

Each stage of a child's development includes several categories such as:

- Things you can do everyday to help your child grow.
- Things your child may be able to do at each age.
- Things your baby or child may do at this age.
- Safety tips.
- Healthy hints.

At the four to five year stages, a section is provided to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten. The parent's role as teacher is also stressed. Additional information can be found at www.state.tn.us/education.



Commissioner Rukeyser talks with 4-year-old Alex Casas during the *Smart from the Start* Kick-off at the Pearl Cohn Comprehensive High School.

From left—John Lowe, M.D., Russell Vatter, superintendent, and Donald Gold Jr. M.D.



Governor Honors MBMHI Psychiatrists

Two Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute psychiatrists were recently honored with certificates of appreciation from Governor Don Sundquist.

Drs. Donald Gold Jr. and John Lowe were each presented the certificates by Superintendent Russell Vatter at the June meeting of the MBMHI Board of Trustees.

In the fall of 1999, both made many 700-mile round trips to Memphis Mental Health Institute where they provided critically needed leadership and direct patient care.

In addition, they continued to provide services to Moccasin Bend. Dr. Gold is assistant superintendent for Clinical Services. Dr. Lowe is the clinical director of the Subacute Care Program.

DMHDD Releases Title VI Data

The Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities released a collection of racial and ethnic data in August at the Title VI 2000 Implementation Hearings.

The hearing, held before the Title VI Committee of the Tennessee Black Legislative Caucus and the Department of Finance and Administration, included demographics on persons served in each mental health institute and developmental center.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 stipulates that, "No person in the United States shall on the basis of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program receiving Federal financial assistance."

While this legislation mandates compliance on a national level, Tennessee is the only state in the U.S. to reinforce this decision with its own law.

Deputy Commissioner Ben Dishman made the presentation. The DMHDD Title VI Coordinator is Bob VanderSpek. You may reach him at (615) 532-6700.

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTES

FACILITY	LMHI	MTMHI	WMHI	MBMHI	MMHI
WHITE	88%	75%	62%	75%	29%
BLACK	10%	22%	36%	23%	69%
OTHER	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
TOTAL	2126	2671	1870	1936	2059

FACILITY	LMHI	MTMHI	WMHI	MBMHI	MMHI
NON-HISPANIC	98%	98%	99%	99%	99%
HISPANIC	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
TOTAL	2126	2671	1870	1936	2059

DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS

FACILITY	CBDC	GVDC	ADC	COMMUNITY
WHITE	79%	93.2%	66.1%	80.5%
BLACK	21%	6.5%	33.5%	18.8%
OTHER	0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%
TOTAL	267	366	277	6388

FACILITY	CBDC	GVDC	ADC	COMMUNITY
NON-HISPANIC	100%	100%	100%	99.8%
HISPANIC	0%	0%	0%	.2%
TOTAL	267	366	277	6388

Major Changes Brought About By New Title 33

(cont. from page 1)

Treatment Review Committees to assist in decision-making about treatment; provides for mental health consumers to make declarations for mental health treatment to be implemented during periods when they are not able to state their preference; and extends the requirement for mandatory prescreening to all hospitalizations for people whose services are publicly funded. No changes were made to the mental health or mental retardation commitment criteria.

Below is a summary of other significant changes brought about by this law:

- The old Title 33 covers mental illness, mental retardation, but covers developmental disabilities only under the family support law. The new law extends the eligibility for services from the department to people with developmental disabilities. In essence this new provision gives people with developmental disabilities a home agency.
- The new law extends licensure requirements to cover services to people with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance and developmental disabilities such as supported living and continuous treatment teams in addition to the licensure of facilities. The old law authorizes licensure of facilities.
- Under the new law, the department is required to develop and update a 3-year plan, as a basis for budget requests while the old law does not address budget planning. Under the old Title 33, programs or laws are not tied to the appropriations act, but under the new law, the appropriations act governs implementation of any program at state expense. This requires ongoing program and budgeting planning efforts.
- The new law establishes a statewide planning and policy council—composed of a majority of consumers—to advise the department about the service system, policy development, budget requests and system monitoring. This differs from the old law where the Board of Trustees is not required to include consumers or families or to play a role in setting budget priorities.
- The new law provides for access to mental retardation/developmental disability services through designated entities, which must provide information and updates on



Michael Scruggs (left) receives a special Certificate of Congratulations from Case Manager Shannon Caldwell.



CTT Case Manager Dorothy "Dot" Doherty presents a Certificate of Congratulations to Earnest J. Taylor for completing the CTT program.

Covington Program Reports CTT Success

Professional Counseling Services in Covington reports two consumers recently completed the program's Continuous Treatment Team (CTT) program.

CTT, an intensive case management program for consumers who are enrolled in TennCare, is based on a team concept of providing services.

The team, which includes five case managers, a team psychiatrist and a nurse, provides services targeted to helping consumers remain stable in their home environment.

These consumers usually report a history of multiple psychiatric hospitalizations, several interventions by a crisis team and minimal success at maintaining stability through usual outpatient treatment.

Consumers, Earnest Joe Taylor of Haywood County and Michael Scruggs of Tipton County, were presented Certificates of Congratulations for their efforts in remaining stable for extended periods of time.

available services and supports. The old law provides no such access.

- The new law permits decisions about medical and dental services to be made by surrogates for adults with developmental disabilities due to mental impairment. The old law has no such authority.
 - The new law requires interagency agreements when more than one agency delivers services to the same population. The old law does not mention interagency agreements or foster interagency cooperation.
 - The new Title 33 permits in-patient mental health services for up to 72 hours without judicial proceedings, for persons with severe impairments when the need
- for psychiatric services is certified by two physicians. This alternative is absent in the old law.
- The new law permits mandatory community-based services for up to two years for persons charged with felonies, incompetent to stand trial, but not committable. The old law has no such provision.
 - The new Title 33 creates Chapter 8 with special provisions for children and their families that are absent from the old law.
 - The new legislation allows for declaration for mental health treatment preferences (advance directives) which gives consumers a role in their care. The old law does not address this issue.



New Leadership—Heading the council for 2000-01 are (front row from left) Sita Diehl, vice president; Olivia Evans, co-secretary; Sheryl McCormick, Region II chair; Susan Ficus, Region IV chair; (back row) Jerry Jenkins, Region III chair; Barbara Dobbins, co-secretary; Aubrey Howard, Region VII chair; George Haley, past president; Bob Benning, president; and Bev Lewis, director of planning in the Division of Mental Health Services.



Some of the new council members met with Assistant Commissioner of Mental Health Services, Melanie Hampton and Bev Lewis for orientation.



*Persons affiliated with **Back from Wherever I've Been**, a collection of 70 stories from the BRIDGES program, gathered at the council meeting.*

MH Council Outlines Areas of Attention/ Objectives for 2000-01

The Mental Health Planning Council has outlined some of its areas of attention for the coming year. They include

- Utilize the Council Satisfaction Survey results to further effectiveness of council efforts.
- Continue support to the TennCare Partners Roundtable in their monitoring and advisory responsibilities.
- Place the 2000-01 Community MH Services Plan on the DMHDD website.
- Educate stakeholders on Title 33 revisions and implementation of these revisions.
- Increase collaborative efforts between regional and statewide councils.
- Support implementation of recommendations from the Criminal Justice Task Force.

The Mental Health Planning Council—required under Public Law 99-660 and PL 102-321, Sec. 1914b—is an ongoing planning group comprised of professional and lay persons. It has 65 voting members of which 54 percent are consumers, advocates or family members. Another 30 persons serve in a non-voting capacity.

The proposed objectives of the council for this year are:

- Begin a cultural diversity committee.
- Establish a permanent aging committee.
- Further structure and formalize the advisory role of the council to the DMHDD.
- Conduct co-occurring illness committees in each regional council to report to the state council committee.
- Continue to identify housing needs and resources to meet those needs for adults with severe and persistent mental illness.
- Explore how to narrow target groups such as individuals who are homeless, homeless and mentally ill and homeless mentally ill in transition who want housing.

The Consumers Advisory Board meets with MH Assistant Commissioner Melanie Hampton and Consumer Affairs Director Joe Swinford, before the last council meeting.



Tennessee Youth with Disabilities Complete Leadership Forum

Twelve young Tennesseans with disabilities recently completed a weeklong leadership forum designed to help each overcome barriers to education, employment and social participation as they prepare for personal and professional success as adults.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council, the Tennessee Youth Leadership Forum provides young adults with opportunities to learn from nationally recognized disability experts, politicians and community leaders with disabilities about various disability-related topics.

The annual event covers such areas as *living on my own, the history of the disability movement, the state legislative process and the use of assistive technology.*

Small group sessions combined with social activities gave each delegate opportunities to learn from each other and explore their own uniqueness as people who happen to have a disability. It was held June 26-29 at Nashville's Vanderbilt University. The class of 2000 includes:

- Nicole Caudill, Philadelphia
- Shanell Brown, Cordova
- Ashley Hale, Gallatin
- Justin McBride, Memphis
- Will Durham, Germantown
- William King, LaVergne
- Billie Davis, Jamestown
- Laura Pierson, Collierville
- Tiffany Bradley, Greenback
- Kellye Lawson, Cleveland
- Angela Weaver, Fayetteville
- Helena Paxton, Castilian Springs

For additional information on the Tennessee Youth Leadership Forum, write Partners in Policymaking Leadership Institute; Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council; 5th Floor, Cordell Hull Building; 425 5th Avenue North; Nashville, TN 37243-0675; email: tnddc@mail.state.tn.us. Or call voice: (615) 532-6615, TTY: (615) 741-4562, FAX: (615) 532-4685.

ADA is on the Web

A new federal web site is now available focusing on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Log on at <http://www.disability.gov>

Legislative Retreat & Training Conference Scheduled

New Beginnings in the New Millennium: Assessment, Action & Accountability is the topic of the 26th Annual Legislative Retreat and Training Conference scheduled November 16-19 at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown.

Chaired by Lois DeBerry, speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, the event affords an estimated 3,000 community leaders opportunities to express their

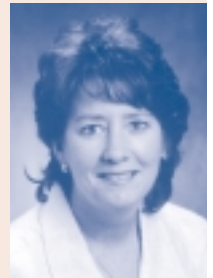
concerns on a variety of topics.

Participants represent such areas as government, business, education, health and religious and civic organizations.

Activities are also planned for youth including workshop sessions on such topics as education, employment and violence. A Mock Legislative Assembly featuring a variety show is part of the event.

Happenings

- William J. Hamil was recently named coordinator of addiction services for Indian Path Pavilion, part of Indian Path Medical Center in Kingsport. Hamil oversees inpatient and outpatient services relating to alcohol and other drug dependency treatment and prevention. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in community agency counseling from Auburn University.
- Dr. W. Edward Craighead, a former Shelbyville resident, was recently elected president of the Society of Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association. Craighead directs the clinical program of the Department of Psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.
- Tamela Sadler, a licensed psychological examiner, recently began a private practice in Tullahoma. Sadler has a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology from MTSU and a master's in counseling psychology from Trevecca in Nashville. Professional experience includes service with the Mobile Crisis Team of the Rutherford County Guidance Center.
- Licensed clinical social worker Myra Young Johnson recently joined the professional staff of Dr. Badshah Maitra at Cumberland Psychiatric Services in McMinnville.
- Knoxville social worker Mary H. Hanson recently gained diplomate status with the American Psychotherapy Association. She meets the organization's requirements in skill, knowledge, training and experience in the art and science of psychotherapy.
- A Vanderbilt University professor who studies ways technology can help in teaching and learning has been awarded the E.L. Thorndike Award of the American Psychological Association. The honor was recently conferred on John D. Bransford, professor of education and Centennial Professor of Psychology.
- Doris E. Vaughan, former program manager for Centerstone Mental Health Centers, has been named that agency's director of Prevention Services. Vaughan holds a master's degree in education from Georgia State University in Atlanta and is a Licensed Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse Counselor. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Middle Tennessee Tourettes Syndrome Association.
- Renee Leach, program coordinator for the Middle Tennessee Regional Intervention Program, was recently awarded the Direct Service Worker Award for Middle Tennessee of the Tennessee Association for Child Care. The award honors therapists and counselors who show exceptional dedication to serving children and families in need.
- Positive Horizons of Smyrna was recently awarded \$1,500 to provide family counseling services to area residents. The funds were awarded by the Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund.
- Genesco Inc. recently donated \$10,000 to the Dede Wallace Center's 2000-2001 Annual Fund Campaign. Genesco also donated 50 pairs of shoes to the children in the program's Therapeutic Preschool.
- The Behavioral Health Institute, a non-profit agency serving families in Bradley and McMinn counties, recently elected officers. Ann Dodson is president. The Reverend Bill Griffith is vice president, and Phil and Sally Russell were elected to the board.
- Robin L. Atwood was recently named executive director of the Community Rehabilitation Agencies of Tennessee - CMRA.





Commission Members—from left—are Pat Fain, Darin Gordon, Joanna Damons, Carol Westlake, Jennifer Krahenbill, Bill Schiers. Standing are Barbara Brent, Don Redden, Doria Panvini, Martha Britton, Mildred Echols and Tom Bugey.

Community Based Services Planning Commission Developing Final Report

The Community Based Services Planning Commission—charged with studying and developing a proposed strategic plan for supporting people with developmental disabilities in less restricting settings and moving people off waiting lists at a reasonable rate—began tackling this job at the August 31 initial meeting.

The group elected Carol Westlake, head of the Tennessee Disability Coalition, Nashville, and Don Redden of Dickson, representing the Arc of Tennessee, as co-chair.

The group formed five subgroups around the five elements of the proposed final report—guiding principles, state of the system, mechanisms to build capacities, how to get there and how to operationalize.

According to the Division of Mental Retardation Services, there are 2,033 people on the waiting list and the division has allocated \$4.88 million this year to address the needs of those individuals.

The group plans to submit its report to the governor by November 1, 2000 following five commission meetings and several subgroup meetings.

Other members of the commission—appointed by the governor—include

Barbara Brent Division of Mental Retardation Services	Rep. Mary Ann Eckles Murfreesboro
Tom Bugey Memphis	Pat Fain Harriman
Mildred Echols Memphis	Allen Hendry Emory valley Center, Inc. Oak Ridge
Darin Gordon Department of Finance and Administration	Doria Panvini Nashville
Jennifer Krahenbill Waves, Inc., Franklin	Bill Schiers Arc of Washington County
Martha Britton Morristown	Floyd Stewart, Jr. Whites Creek
Joanna Damons TennCare Bureau	Rep. Raymond Walker Fairfield Glade

Conference on Youth Violence Scheduled For November

Experts from across Tennessee will meet in Nashville on November 2 to look at ways to prevent violence among young people.

A one-day conference — *Youth Violence Prevention - Tools for Today and Tomorrow*—will focus on identifying the most effective techniques to prevent violence among young people. The event will be held at the Regal Maxwell House Hotel.



According to Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (DMHDD) Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser, Tennessee's youth are exposed to many influences that negatively affect how they interact within the family, the school and the community.

"Our purpose is to provide conference participants the information they need to accurately identify and assess the risk factors that contribute to violent behaviors."

The commissioner said conference participants will have opportunities to look at specific models that may be implemented in their communities. Emphasis will be placed on research and education, community initiatives, disproportionate minority confinement and the role of the faith community in prevention and intervention.

Conference hosts include state agencies charged with providing services to children and adolescents, the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Tennessee Voices for Children, Centerstone Community Health Centers, Meharry Area Education Center and Students Taking a Right Stand.

For registration information, call (615) 269-7751, 1 (800) 670-9882 or fax (615) 269-6914.



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